MPP-1150 Parallel Printer Interface Owner's Manual

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your purchase of the MPP-1150 Parallel Printer Interface. You have wisely chosen a printer interface incorporating the latest state-of-the-art technology to enhance the use of your Atari computer. The MPP-1150 is designed to be completely compatible with software written to use the Atari 850 Interface Module. The MPP-1150 is also compatible with our MPP-1000C direct-connect modem that does not require the Atari 850. Both of these together make a complete package that will out perform most of the other products on the market today.

CONNECTING THE MPP-1150

The MPP-1150 is designed to work with all Atari computers and virtually all parallel printers. The standard MPP-1150 connects to any parallel printer using the 36-pin Centronics connector (Epson, NEC, Star Micronics, Okidata, etc.). There are adapter cables available for many of the printers that do not use the standard Centronics connector.

1) Plug the MPP-1150 into your computer's peripheral connector (where the cassette or disk drive plugs in).

2) Plug the next peripheral on the chain into the connector on the side of the MPP-1150.

3) Turn your printer off. Now connect the MPP-1150 by plugging the long ribbon cable into into your printer's parallel connector.

* Note that the MPP-1150 must be plugged directly into the computer. If it is installed further on the chain of peripherals, the interface may not receive sufficient power to operate.

CONFIGURING YOUR PRINTER

Most printers have DIP switches that allow you to set certain options on the printer. Typically, these switches allow use of different character sets, form length, and other print options. The most common switch that needs changing is one that tells the printer to advance the paper (linefeed) every time it prints the end of a line (carriage return). If the printer prints everything on the same line, then you want to switch it so it does a CR + LF. There may also be other switches that need setting for correct operation. Refer to your printer manual for more information.

You should always turn your printer off before changing the switches. After setting them correctly, turn the printer back on. If you do not follow this procedure, the printer may not recognize the change.

ADD ON BUFFER

Your MPP-1150 has the capability to buffer data that is sent to the printer. This is handy because the computer can send print data to the interface at high speed and then continue to do other computing tasks. Meanwhile, the interface sends the data to the printer at the speed that it can be printed.

The MPP-1150 requires the installation of the MPP-1152 2K (2000 character) expansion kit to give it the buffer capability. Contact your local dealer or Microbits for more information.

SERIAL PRINTER OPTION

The MPP-1150 has the capability to work with some RS-232 serial printers. This requires an additional adaptor cable. To order a MPP-1156 serial adaptor cable, contact your dealer or Microbits.

Your printer must have the following specifications to work with the MPP-1156 serial adapter:

- 150,300,600,1200,2400,4800,9600 Baud
- 1 start bit
- 8 data bits
- 2 stop bits
- No parity
- RDY/BSY data protocol system using DTR to indicate status
- Printer must accept TTL (0-5 volt) signal levels

* NOTE- The serial adapter cannot be used in conjunction with the MPP-1152 buffer expansion.

SOFTWARE COMPATIBILITY

The MPP-1150 works with all software written to use a parallel printer connected to an Atari 850 Interface Module. If your software does not seem to work correctly with your printer, then there is probably a compatibility problem between the software and printer.

If you have the Atari Writer word processor and a non Atari printer then you should obtain the Atari Writer Printer Driver program from the Atari Program Exchange (APX).

USING THE MPP-1150 FROM BASIC

To use the MPP-1150 with Atari BASIC you simply type:

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LPRINT"This is a test of the MPP-1150"
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If you want to print from a BASIC program, you insert a line number before the command:

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10 LPRINT"Does it work?"
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See your BASIC reference manual for more information on using a printer with BASIC.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you have a problem getting the MPP-1150 interface to work correctly, check the following items:

1. Computer will not operate with MPP-1150 plugged in. MPP-1150 is defective. Return to dealer or MPP.

2. Disk drive or cassette will not work when plugged into MPP-1150. MPP-1150 is defective. Return to dealer or MPP.

3. ERROR-138. Is MPP-1150 connected properly to computer and printer. Is printer on and selected.

4. ERROR-140. You probably turned your computer off and on too quickly. The MPP-1150 needs a couple of seconds to properly reset. If you get this error repeatedly then you may have a defective MPP-1150. Contact your dealer or MPP.

5. Everything seems to work fine but printer does not print. Is MPP-1150 connected to printer properly. Are the printer's DIP switches set correctly? If that doesn't work, you should try the MPP-1150 with another printer that is known to work correctly. If that doesn't work, the MPP-1150 is probably defective and should be returned.

Call our service department at (503) 967-9075 to get a return authorization before returning any merchandise directly to us.

WARRANTY

Microbits Peripheral Products, Inc. warrants the MPP-1150 Interface to be free from defects in material and workmanship and to meet applicable specifications under normal use and service for a period of two (2) years after sale to original owner. If any parts have become defective under normal usage rather than misuse, negligence, or accident, Microbits Peripheral Products, Inc. will repair of replace them without charge. This warranty shall not apply to parts or equipment that have been repaired or altered outside our repair facility. Equipment that has been subjected to misuse, negligence, or accident, or that has been altered, defaced, or has the serial number missing is not covered by this warranty. Repairs that are not covered by this warranty will be billed at current shop charges.

Microbits Peripheral Products, Inc. does not assume any liability for any consequential damages caused by the use of the MPP-1150 Interface.

MICROBITS PERIPHERAL PRODUCTS

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